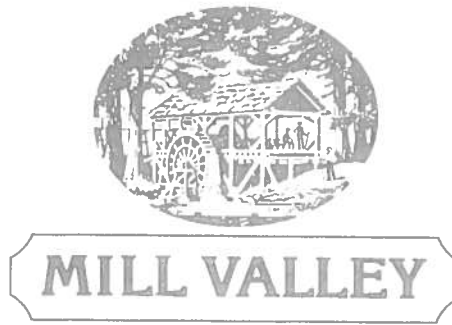


Kenneth R. Wachtel
Mayor

Garry Lion
Vice Mayor

John McCauley
Councilmember



Jessica Jackson
Councilmember
Stephanie Moulton-Peters
Councilmember
James C. McCann
City Manager

September 23, 2015

Steve Heminger
Executive Director
Metropolitan Transportation Commission
101 Eighth Street
Oakland, CA 94607-4700

RECEIVED
SEP 30 2015

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

RE: Potential Consolidation of MTC and ABAG Planning Departments

Dear Mr. Heminger,

This letter is in regard to your recent white paper analyzing the potential consolidation of the ABAG and MTC Planning Departments within the MTC organization. We understand you will be discussing this with the MTC Commission on September 23, 2015.

The City of Mill Valley strongly urges MTC to reconsider swift actions regarding consolidating the MTC and ABAG Planning Departments. The process for consideration of the proposal has been flawed in several ways. First, the process has not been a collaborative effort between the agencies. Second, critical stakeholders have not been afforded the opportunity to fully evaluate the proposal or provide reflective communication regarding its merits or alternatives. Finally, the timeline for the decision to consolidate has been incredibly rushed and very little information about this potential consolidation has been distributed to the cities and key stakeholders.

Instead of the current proposal the MTC is considering, the City of Mill Valley strongly requests the MTC take the following actions:

1. Extend ABAG planning services funding for the final 6 months of FY2015/2016 to secure stability to proceed with Plan Bay Area 2040.
2. Establish an ABAG/MTC subcommittee to produce an action plan which would evaluate options to ensure the appropriate and efficient collaboration between MTC and ABAG planning departments.
3. Retain an independent third party consultant to evaluate the two planning organizations and the options provided by both the September 10th ABAG and September 18th MTC Executive Director "White Papers".

4. Schedule regular progress reports by the Executive Directors to the joint MTC Planning Committee/ABAG Administrative Committee on an action plan, joint working plan and coordination with local jurisdictions.
5. Receive and consider input from cities and key stakeholders before making this crucial decision.

The City of Mill Valley also intends to coordinate and establish a small cities caucus outside of the General Assembly to further discuss and provide input and recommendations to MTC and ABAG on this topic of consolidation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kenneth R. Wachtel', written in a cursive style.

Kenneth R. Wachtel
Mayor
City of Mill Valley

Cc: Jim McCann, City Manager
Mill Valley City Council
Ezra Rapport, ABAG Executive Director